



# *National Guard State Partnership Program (SPP)*



## **Overview of the National Guard State Partnership Program**



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- **History**
- **Current Partnerships**
- **Typical Activities**
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## *What is SPP?*

### **SPP links a state's National Guard with the armed forces of a partner nation in a cooperative, mutually beneficial relationship**

- Serves DoD as an innovative, low-cost, small footprint security cooperation program
- Supports CCMD and Embassy security cooperation objectives
- Builds capacity and capability within partner security forces
- Cultivates personal, professional, & institutional relationships
- Trains National Guardsmen for Title 32 and Title 10 missions



Ohio National Guard provides oversight as Serbian soldier fires an M-240B machine gun during a exchange.



President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal, Vermont Gov. Jim Douglas and Air Force Maj. Gen. Michael Dubie, Adjutant General of the Vermont National Guard, meet at the headquarters of the Vermont National Guard.



North Dakota National Guard and visiting Ghanaian dignitaries tour flood-protection facilities, including this AquaFence in Fargo



## *SPP History*

- SPP began in 1993 with establishment of security partnerships between National Guard states of Maryland, Michigan and Pennsylvania with three Baltic nations of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in coordination with US European Command
- SPP has grown significantly since then with 65 partnerships worldwide today and still growing
  - SPP will add four new partnerships in 2014



68 State Partnerships

# STATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

**USEUCOM - 22**

Alabama / Romania (1993)  
California / Ukraine (1993)  
Colorado / Slovenia (1993)  
Georgia / Georgia (1994)  
Illinois / Poland (1993)  
Indiana / Slovakia (1993)  
Iowa / Kosovo (2011)

Kansas / Armenia (2002)  
Maine / Montenegro (2006)  
Maryland / Estonia (1993)  
Maryland / Bosnia (2003)  
Michigan / Latvia (1993)  
Minnesota / Croatia (1996)  
New Jersey / Albania (2001)  
North Carolina / Moldova (1996)

Ohio / Hungary (1993)  
Ohio / Serbia (2005)  
Oklahoma / Azerbaijan (2002)  
Pennsylvania / Lithuania (1993)  
Tennessee / Bulgaria (1993)  
Texas, Nebraska / Czech Republic (1993)  
Vermont / Macedonia (1993)

**USCENTCOM - 5**

Arizona / Kazakhstan (1993)  
Colorado / Jordan (2004)  
Mississippi / Uzbekistan (2012)  
Montana / Kyrgyz Republic (1996)  
Virginia / Tajikistan (2003)

**USNORTHCOM - 1**

Rhode Island / Bahamas (2005)

**USSOUTHCOM - 22**

Arkansas / Guatemala (2002)  
Connecticut / Uruguay (2000)  
Delaware / Trinidad-Tobago (2004)  
District of Columbia / Jamaica (1999)  
Florida / Venezuela (1998)  
Florida / Guyana (2003)  
Florida, Virgin Is. / Regional Security System (2006)  
Kentucky / Ecuador (1996)  
Louisiana / Belize (1996)  
Louisiana / Haiti (2011)  
Massachusetts / Paraguay (2001)  
Mississippi / Bolivia (1999)  
Missouri / Panama (1996)  
New Hampshire / El Salvador (2000)  
New Mexico / Costa Rica (2006)  
Puerto Rico / Honduras (1998)  
Puerto Rico / Dominican Rep. (2003)  
South Carolina / Colombia (2012)  
South Dakota / Suriname (2006)  
Texas / Chile (2008)  
West Virginia / Peru (1996)  
Wisconsin / Nicaragua (2003)

**USAFRICOM - 10**

California / Nigeria (2006)  
New York / South Africa (2003)  
North Carolina / Botswana (2008)  
North Dakota / Ghana (2004)  
North Dakota / Togo (2014)  
North Dakota / Benin (2014)  
Michigan / Liberia (2009)  
Utah / Morocco (2003)  
Vermont / Senegal (2008)  
Wyoming / Tunisia (2004)

**USPACOM - 8**

Alaska / Mongolia (2003)  
Guam, Hawaii / Philippines (2000)  
Hawaii / Indonesia (2006)  
Idaho / Cambodia (2009)  
Nevada / Tonga (2014)  
Oregon / Bangladesh (2008)  
Oregon / Vietnam (2012)  
Washington / Thailand (2002)





# *SPP Typical Activities*

- Leadership, Officer and NCO development
- Defense reform and military modernization
- Military medical and engineer activities
- Aviation logistics, maintenance, and safety
- Border, port, and aviation security
- Disaster preparedness and crisis management
- Critical infrastructure and resources protection
- Deployment planning & family support programs



Kansas National Guard combat engineer partners with an Armenian Peacekeeping Brigade soldier during a demining exercise



North Carolina National Guard describes for officers from the Ministry of Defense of Macedonia the key points of public relations.



Wisconsin National Guard Command Sgt. Maj. Ralph Rosemore talks to Nicaraguan military members during a leadership exchange at a NCO academy in Managua

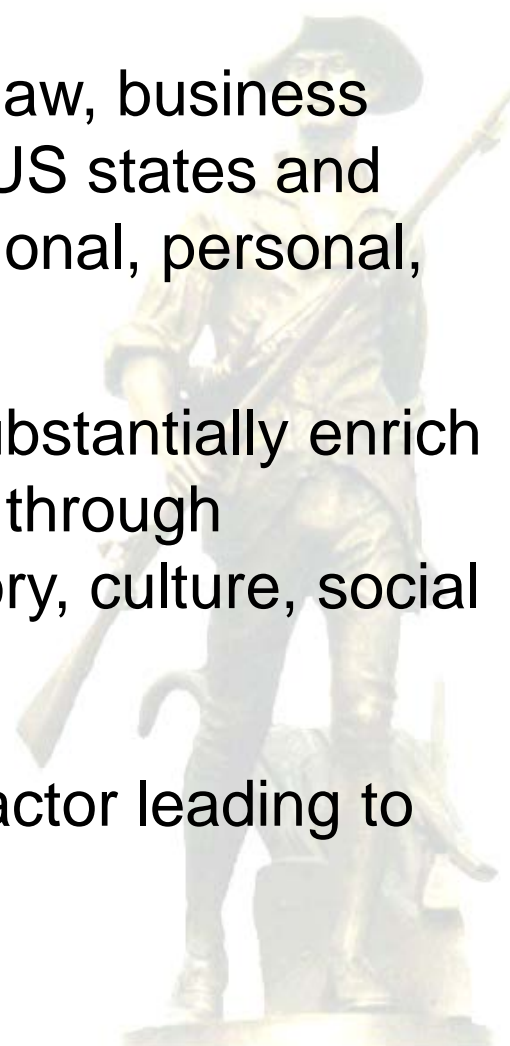


New Hampshire National Guardsman observes as members of Salvadoran Army practice mountain casualty evacuation



## *SPP Broader Engagement*

- Mutual exchanges in education, medical, law, business and the NGO sector often emerge between US states and their SPP partners through enduring professional, personal, and institutional relationships
- These whole-of-society exchanges can substantially enrich the overall state-partner country relationship through enhanced understanding of each side's history, culture, social organization and languages
- In some cases, the SPP relationship is a factor leading to Sister State or Sister City agreements





# *SPP's Unique Characteristics*

- **Builds enduring personal and institutional relationships through consistent and persistent engagement**
- **Offers expandable engagement approach**
  - Senior leader visits
  - Exchanges and familiarization visits
  - Cooperative training and exercises
  - Co-deployments
- **Matches military organizations of comparable size, focus, and mission**
- **Provides full spectrum of traditional military capabilities plus others not found in active component**
  - Disaster response and consequence management
  - Border, port, and aviation security
  - Counternarcotics trafficking
- **Fosters broader cultural, economic, and academic ties at the local and state level**



General L'ubomir Bulik and Mayor Milan Ftachnik present MG R. Martin Umbarger the key to the city of Bratislava and honorary Slovak citizenship



Illinois National Guard soldier trains with his counterpart from the Polish Land Forces during Bagram XI, a joint exercise to prepare Polish troops for deployment to Afghanistan





## *SPP Return on Investment*

- From 2003-2013, 16 SPP partner countries co-deployed forces to Iraq and Afghanistan in 87 rotations
- In FY2013, SPP completed 739 security cooperation events across 65 partnerships and all 6 Geographic Combatant Commands, contributing to all Combatant Command Endstate goals
- Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff **Admiral James Winnefeld**, at the Reserve Forces Policy Board, September 2013: "I saw what a potent contribution reserves can make in [building partnership capacity overseas]. Link this concept with one of the best foreign policy bargains our nation has – namely the Guard's State Partnership Program, which I very strongly support."





## *SPP FY2013 Program Highlights*

- **IA-Kosovo:** Iowa Governor Terry Branstad and Kosovo President Atifete Jahjaga have signed a Sister State partnership agreement. The cities of Johnston, Iowa and Peja, Kosovo have signed a Sister City agreement
- **OR-Bangladesh:** ORNG facilitated a concept where Portland Police Officers would help teach at the Bangladeshi Police Academy in Rajshahi utilizing funds from the US Department of Justice
- **MD-Estonia:** Estonia is already taking a lead role in regional cyber defense training with neighboring countries and assisting Belarus, Georgia, Tunisia, and others in cyber defense with the help of the MDNG
- **CO-Jordan:** Colorado has served as a key liaison and mentor for the strategically vital US ally Jordan. "When we fly together, we fly as one team. If a [Colorado Air Guard] pilot is the flight lead, the Jordanian pilot will follow his command and likewise, if a Jordanian pilot is in command of the flight, the American will follow his direction." – **Maj Ali Shabana**, Royal Jordanian Air Force Project Officer



## *Conclusion*

- SPP is entering the third decade of forging unique partnerships, built for success and for the long-term
- The program continues to evolve to meet combatant command objectives and national security goals while maintaining relationships with some of our staunchest allies and partners, in every corner of the world, and many have proven ready and willing to share the burden of maintaining international security and stability

